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For Immediate Release...

Corrections News

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One classroom in each of the fifteen prison schools will be used to pilot the software.

"The goal of this project is to improve offenders' successful reentry to society through the use of advanced educational technology by determining through a pilot study if comprehensive vocational, life skills and academic software can increase offender students' success."

Director Larry Crawford

Corrections Receives Grant to Explore Education Technology in State Prisons

Governor Matt Blunt today applauded the Department of Corrections for securing a \$345,530 grant to support a pilot study that will explore education technology and its role to enhance offenders' opportunities after release.

Department of Corrections Director Larry Crawford said, "The goal of this project is to improve offenders' successful reentry to society through the use of advanced educational technology by determining through a pilot study if comprehensive vocational, life skills and academic software can increase offender students' success."

The grant is from the U.S. Bureau of Justice Assistance and will be used to implement educational and vocational software in one classroom in each of the state's prison schools. The grant will assess how the education technology affects academic, career and technical achievement in the pilot classrooms and how it relates to employment after inmates are released.

U.S. Department of Justice statistics show that less educated offenders are more likely to commit crimes after release than more educated offenders. The Missouri Department of Corrections Research Unit notes only 13.2 percent of released offenders who secured full-time employment returned to prison within one year. The return rate is higher for those who did not have full-time jobs, with 30.6 percent of those working part-time returning to prison within one year, and 59.5 percent of those unemployed returning to prison within one year.

After the one-year pilot the Department of Corrections will review results and determine next steps for education technology in the state's 15 prison schools.

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